

Abstract

The invention provides lactic acid bacteria selected from the group consisting of *lactobacillus* ONRIC b0239 (FERM BP-10064) and *lactobacillus* ONRIC b0240 (FERM BP-10065), and compositions containing the bacteria, the compositions being capable of stimulating mucosal immunity, and more specifically, the compositions in the form of foods or beverages or pharmaceutical products. The lactic acid bacteria and compositions containing the bacteria are capable of providing excellent mucosal immunostimulation effects and are useful for reinforcing the host defense system.